

Conjunctions and Transitions

In this Arabic lesson we are going to discuss some of the most important tools in correctly and coherently connecting sentences in Arabic. Properly connected sentences need a good understanding of conjunctions and transitions. Thoughts to an idea are like cars to a train, unless strongly connected; your idea will remain ambiguous in the same fashion that a broken connection between two cars in a train can lead to a disaster. You are the locomotive that hauls them, but you have also to make sure that your sentences are properly coupled together. To help you do that, below is a list of some common and widely used conjunctions and transitions in Arabic:

Adding information

And	و (واو) العطف	wa	Ahmed and Ali travels to America أحمد و علي سافرا الى أمريكا
In addition	بالإضافة إلى ذلك	bel 'idafa ila thalek	
	زيادة على ذلك	ziyadatan ^ala thalek	
Furthermore	علاوة على ذلك	^ilawa ^ala thalek	
Likewise	كذلك	kathalek	An athlete goes through training drills in order to be agile on the field. Likewise , a musician practices scales so that he or she can perform with ease.

Contrast

But	لكن	laakin	
	إلا	'illa	
	ما عدا	maa ^adaa	
However	لكن	laakin	
	مع ذلك	ma^a thalek	
	غير أن	ghayra anna	
On the other hand	من جهة أخرى	min jihatini 'ukhraa	
	من ناحية أخرى	min nahiyatin 'ukhraa	
On the contrary	على عكس ذلك	^ala ^aksi thaled	

Showing effects

So	بالتالي	bi at-talii
	هكذا	haakathaa

Giving choices

Or	أو	'aw
	أم	'am
	وإما	wa 'immaa

Showing Consequences or effects

As a result	نتيجة لذلك	natiljatan lithalek	Ahmed told his wife that her spaghetti sauce was terrible. as a result, he now cooks for himself.
Consequently	بناء على ذلك	bina'an ^ala thalek	
Therefore	من ثم	min thamma	
	لذلك	lithalek	

Exemplifying

For instance	مثلا	mathalan	
	على سبيل المثال	^ala sabiili al-mithal	
In particular	على وجه الخصوص	^ala wajhi al-khusoos	
Specifically	على وجه التحديد	^ala wajhi at-tahdiid	
	تحديدا	tahdidan	

Generalizing

Generally speaking	بصفة عامة	bi sifah ^ammah	
Generally	عموما	^umuman	

Emphasizing

Above all	قبل كل شيء	kabla kulli shay'	
Especially	لاسيما	laa siyamaa	
Particularly	خصوصا	khususana	

Summarizing

In the end	أخيرا	'akhirana	
	في النهاية	fi an-nihayah	
	في نهاية المطاف	fi nihayat al-mataf	
Overall	بصورة شاملة	bi sooratin shaamilah	

Comparison

Similarly	بالمثل	bi-al-mithl	
Likewise	كذلك	kathalek	

Contrast & Concession

Although / Even though / In spite of	رغم أن	raghma 'anna	
	مع أن	ma^a 'anna	
	على الرغم من	^ala ar-raghami min	

Reasons

Because	لأن	li'anna	
	بسبب	bisabab	
Since	بما أن	bimaa 'anna	

Condition

If	إذا	'ithaa	
	في حالة	fi haalat	
Since	بما أن	bimaa 'anna	
	بينما	baynamaa	While I was waiting in line for the Matisse Exhibit, I ate my lunch.
While	في حين	fi hiin	While I was waiting in line for the Matisse Exhibit, I ate my lunch.
	ما دام	maa daama	While I was waiting in line for the Matisse Exhibit, I ate my lunch.

Time

When	عندما	^indamaa	
	حين	hiina	
	متى	mataa	
Before	قبل	kabla	
After	بعد	ba^da	We are going out to eat after we finish taking the test.
Since	منذ	mundu	Since we have lived in Atlanta, we have gone to every exhibit at the High Musuem.

Others

Also	أيضا	aydan	
Except	ما عدا	maa ^adaa	
As soon as	في أقرب وقت	fi akrabi wakt	
Bothand	... كل من .. و	kullun min ... wa ...	Both my sister and my brother play the piano.
Eitheror	...إما... أو	'immaa ... 'aw ...	Tonight's program is either Mozart or Beethoven.
Anyway	على أي حال	^ala Ayyati hal	
Until	ريثما	raythamaa	
In reality	في الواقع	fi al-waki^	
At the same time	في نفس الوقت	fi nafsi al-wakt	
	وفي الوقت نفسه	fi al-wakti nafsihi	
Among	بين	bayna	
	من بين	min bayn	

Obviously, there are many translations for the same conjunctions and transitions listed above and many more forms and ways to connect one idea to another in Arabic that could have been addressed here. So, if you have one, in particular, that you would like to get added here? Post it in our comments box and we'll get it translated for you.